

Please add the following claims:

31. A method of altering the level of TGF- β binding to TGF- β type III receptor on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a preparation consisting essentially of a soluble polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein, wherein the mammalian receptor protein has an amino acid sequence encoded by :

- a) the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127 or
- b) a cDNA molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with the complement of the coding sequence of (a), and

wherein the cell is contacted under conditions appropriate for binding of the soluble polypeptide to TGF- β .

32. A method of altering the level of TGF- β binding to TGF- β type III receptor on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a preparation consisting essentially of a polypeptide comprising a TGF- β binding fragment of the amino acid sequence of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein, wherein the mammalian receptor protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the amino acid sequence of the TGF- β type III receptor protein of SEQ ID NO: 6 *or and*
- b) the amino acid sequence encoded by a mammalian DNA which hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 5 under high stringency conditions, and

wherein the cell is contacted under conditions appropriate for binding of the polypeptide to TGF- β .

33. A method of altering the level of TGF- β binding to TGF- β type III receptor on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a preparation consisting essentially of a polypeptide comprising a TGF- β binding fragment of the amino

acid sequence of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein, wherein the mammalian receptor protein has an amino acid sequence encoded by:

- a) the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127 or
- b) a cDNA molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with the complement of the coding sequence of the cDNA insert of (a), and

wherein the cell is contacted under conditions appropriate for binding of the polypeptide to TGF- β .

²
34. A method according to Claim ¹~~25~~, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6.

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35. A method according to Claim ³~~31~~, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127.

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36. A method according to Claim ⁵~~32~~, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6.

³
37. A method according to Claim ⁷⁴~~33~~, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127.

- ³
Cont.
38. A method of modulating the effects of TGF- β in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a polypeptide comprising the extracellular domain of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor wherein the mammalian receptor has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) the amino acid sequence of the TGF- β type III receptor protein of SEQ ID NO: 6 or

- b) the amino acid sequence encoded by a mammalian DNA which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 5, and

wherein the polypeptide is administered to the mammal in sufficient quantity to alter the level of TGF- β binding to endogenous TGF- β type II receptors, type III receptors, or both.

39. A method of modulating the effects of TGF- β in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a polypeptide comprising the extracellular domain of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor wherein the mammalian receptor has an amino acid sequence encoded by:

- a) the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127 or
b) a cDNA molecule which hybridizes with the complement of the coding sequence of the cDNA insert of (a), and

wherein the polypeptide is administered to the mammal in sufficient quantity to alter the level of TGF- β binding to endogenous TGF- β type II receptors, type III receptors, or both.

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40.

A method of modulating the effects of TGF- β in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a polypeptide comprising a TGF- β binding fragment of the amino acid sequence of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein, wherein the mammalian receptor protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the amino acid sequence of the TGF- β type III receptor protein of SEQ ID NO: 6 or, and
b) the amino acid sequence encoded by a mammalian DNA which hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 5 under high stringency conditions,

wherein the polypeptide specifically binds to TGF- β under conditions appropriate for binding of the TGF- β type III receptor to TGF- β ;

and wherein the polypeptide is administered to the mammal in sufficient quantity to alter the level of TGF- β binding to endogenous TGF- β type II receptors, type III receptors, or both.

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41.

A method of modulating the effects of TGF- β in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a polypeptide comprising a TGF- β binding fragment of the amino acid sequence of a mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein, wherein the mammalian receptor protein has an amino acid sequence encoded by;

- a) the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127 or
- b) a cDNA molecule which hybridizes ^{under high stringency conditions} with the complement of the coding sequence of the cDNA insert of (a), and

wherein the polypeptide specifically binds to TGF- β under conditions appropriate for binding of the TGF- β type III receptor to TGF- β ; and wherein the polypeptide is administered to the mammal in sufficient quantity to alter the level of TGF- β binding to endogenous TGF- β type II receptors, type III receptors, or both.

19.
42.

A method according to Claim 38, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6.

17.
43.

A method according to Claim 39, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127.

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44.

A method according to Claim 40, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6.

15.
45.

A method according to Claim 41, wherein the mammalian TGF- β type III receptor protein has the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert contained in the plasmid deposited under ATCC accession number 75127.---